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Louis Curth Papers ARL.033

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Adirondack Research Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Adirondack Research Library
Title:	Louis Curth Papers
ID:	ARL.033
Date [inclusive]:	1885-2003
Date [bulk]:	1930-2003
Physical Description:	12.87 Cubic Feet
Physical Description:	11 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Louis Curth papers measure 12.87 cubic feet and date from 1885-2003. The collection consists of research materials used in the writing of "The Forest Rangers: A History of the New York State Forest Ranger Force" (1987) and includes manuscripts, reports, correspondence, photographs, and other records detailing forest ranger history as well as glimpses into Curth's career.

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Biographical / Historical

Louis C. Curth is the author of "The Forest Rangers: A History of the New York State Forest Ranger Force," published by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1987. Curth is a retired forest ranger who devoted his career to the Forest Preserve, working for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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Content Description

The collection consists of research materials used in the writing of "The Forest Rangers: A History of the New York State Forest Ranger Force" (1987) and includes manuscripts, reports, correspondence, photographs, and other records detailing forest ranger history as well as glimpses into Curth's career.

Curth continued to collect and compile materials relating to ranger history after the publication of the book into retirement.

Manuscript materials contain original typewritten versions of each chapter as well as edited and revised book drafts.

Research files consist of various newspaper clippings, articles, correspondence, and other assembled files by subject that were originally compiled in preparation for the book.

Printed materials consist of published and printed summaries, annual reports, various DEC publications, manuals, and maps relating to specific environmental issues and forest ranger policies.

Photographs and negatives depict vehicles, fire control, formal portraits, events, training, construction, and various structures. The bulk of the collection consists of black and white prints.

Objects and ephemera include Smokey the Bear memorabilia, certificates, signage, trail registers, a corporate seal, and other small items.

Audio and visual materials include VHS tapes, a 16mm film reel, and audio cassettes which document ranger history, daily duties, and special events.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 6 series. Records are generally arranged by material type and chronologically or alphabetically thereafter.

Series 1: The Forest Rangers Manuscript, 1986-1987 (Box 1; 1.28 cubic feet)

Series 2: Research Files, 1885-2003 (Boxes 2-4; 3.85 cubic feet)

Series 3: Printed Materials, 1915-2002 (Boxes 5-6; 2.57 cubic feet)

Series 4: Photographs and Negatives, 1920-1997 (Box 7; 1.28 cubic feet)

Series 5: Objects and Ephemera, 1920-1987 (Boxes 8-10; 2.60 cubic feet)

Series 6: Audio and Visual Materials, 1958-2000 (Box 11; 1.28 cubic feet)

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Adirondack Research Library

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Custodial History

Donated by Louis Curth, June 1988, March 1998, and July 2014.

On April 22, 2011, Protect the Adirondacks! placed the collection on permanent loan with Union College.

Processing Information

Processed by Matthew Golebiewski, Fall 2018.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Adirondacks (N.Y.)
- Adirondack Forest Preserve (N.Y.)
- Aerial photographs
- Black-and-white photographs
- Development and Implementation of Environmental Laws and Regulations
- Lectures and lecturing
- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Nature conservation -- New York (State) -- Adirondack Park
- Photographs
- Slides (photographs)
- Curth, Louis C.

Collection Inventory

The Forest Rangers Manuscript, 1986-1987

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

This series consists of typewritten manuscripts used in writing "The Forest Rangers, A History of the New York State Forest Ranger Force" (1987). Materials are arranged by chapter and include various drafts, edits, and re-writes. The project was approved for publication in April of 1986, reviewed at various times by Drayton Grant and Henry Williams with the final manuscript being submitted in September 1986. It was finally published in 1987 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dedication, Table of Contents, etc., 1986	box 1	folder 1
Chapters 1-2, 1986	box 1	folder 2
Chapter 3, 1986	box 1	folder 3
Chapter 4, 1986	box 1	folder 4
Chapter 5, 1986	box 1	folder 5
Chapter 6, 1986	box 1	folder 6
Chapter 7, 1986	box 1	folder 7
Chapter 8, 1986	box 1	folder 8
Chapter 9, 1986	box 1	folder 9
Chapter 10, 1986	box 1	folder 10
Chapter 11, 1986	box 1	folder 11
Chapter 12, 1986	box 1	folder 12
Chapter 13, 1986	box 1	folder 13
Appendices, 1986	box 1	folder 14
Galleys, 1986	box 1	folder 15
Illustrations and Acknowledgments, 1986	box 1	folder 16
Commissioner's Rewrites, 1986	box 1	folder 17
Green Covered Manuscript, 1986	box 1	folder 18
"The Forest Rangers: A History of New York State Forest Ranger Force," Louis C. Curth, 1987	box 1	folder 19

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Research Files, 1885-2003

Physical Description: 3.85 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series consists of news clippings, notes, summaries, articles, correspondence, photocopied reports, memos, and other materials arranged alphabetically by subject. The files were compiled to document various aspects of forest ranger history.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual Report Copies and Notes, 1910-1986	box 2	folder 1
APA Materials, 1986	box 2	folder 2
Centennial History, 1984-1986	box 2	folder 3-4
Civilian Conservation Corps, 1936-1942	box 2	folder 5-6
Conservation Department Matures, 1913-1983	box 2	folder 7
Correspondence, 1985	box 2	folder 8
DEC Super Department, 1976-1984	box 2	folder 9
Fire Towers, 1900-2001	box 3	folder 1-2
Forest Fire Control Speeches and Articles, 1929-1940	box 3	folder 3
Forest Ranger History, 1885-1986	box 3	folder 4-5
Forest Ranger History Book, 1984-1986	box 3	folder 6
Forest Ranger History Mailing List, 1987-2003	box 3	folder 7
Forest Service Work Inventories, 1942-1972	box 3	folder 8
Forms, 1980-1983	box 3	folder 9
Gas Ration Book, 1942	box 3	folder 10
Licensed Guides, 1943-1987	box 3	folder 11
Memoranda, 1940-1949	box 3	folder 12
Miscellaneous, 1960-2003	box 3	folder 13-14
	box 4	folder 1
Newsclippings, 1967-1987	box 4	folder 2-3
New York State Fish, Game, and Forest League, 1926-1927	box 4	folder 4
Railroads, 1969	box 4	folder 5
Raybrook Minutes, 1952-1974	box 4	folder 6
Rissland Case, 1952-1953	box 4	folder 7
Ronald Adams Search, 1985	box 4	folder 8
Roots, 1892-1984	box 4	folder 9

Search, Rescue, and Fire Clippings, 1939-1983	box 4	folder 10
Smokey the Bear and Woodsy, 1969	box 4	folder 11
Timber Trespass, 1932	box 4	folder 12
Union, 1975-1985	box 4	folder 13
Unusual Weather Events, 1950-1953	box 4	folder 14
World War II and the Booming Fifties, 1940-1959	box 4	folder 15

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Printed Materials, 1915-2002

Physical Description: 2.57 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series consists of formally printed reports, guides, handbooks, manuals, maps, plans, and publications used for training, general information, and carrying out of daily ranger operations. Materials are arranged chronologically by date of publication to give the researcher a view of how ranger policies evolved throughout the 20th and 21st Centuries. The bulk of the publications were printed by the State of New York Conservation Department Division of Lands and Forests, Bureau of Forest Fire Control and later the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Manual of Instruction for the Forest Fire Protective Force", 1915	box 5	folder 1
"Fire Control Handbook: Region 5", 1937	box 5	folder 2
"Aerial Delivery of Supplies", 1939	box 5	folder 3
"Fire Control Handbook: Part III, Region 5", 1940	box 5	folder 4
"CCC Fire Training Manual", 1941	box 5	folder 5
"Use of the Box Compass", 1946	box 5	folder 6
"The Conservation Law in Relation to Lands and Forests", 1948	box 5	folder 7
Fire Control Publications, 1950-1954	box 5	folder 8
"Fire Prevention Guide", 1954	box 5	folder 9
Various Annual Reports of the Bureau of Forest Fire Control, 1959-1964	box 5	folder 10
"New York State Fair Exhibit Final Report", 1961	box 5	folder 11
Paul Smith's College Catalogues , 1963-1976	box 5	folder 12
"10 Standard Fire Fighting Orders", 1965	box 5	folder 13
"Operation Secure: A Systematic Program of Boundary Line Maintenance on Exterior Boundaries of State Land", 1966	box 5	folder 14
"Supervision Manual", 1966		

	box 5	folder 15
"Police Terminology", 1967	box 5	folder 16
"Aircraft Operations Manual", 1968	box 5	folder 17
"Conservation Law Study Guide", 1968	box 5	folder 18
"The Fire Warden Guide", 1968	box 5	folder 19
"Forest Fire Detection", 1969	box 5	folder 20
"Forest Ranger Manual", 1969	box 5	folder 21
"Interior Use Manual", 1970	box 5	folder 22
Sanitary Landfill Operator's Course, 1971	box 5	folder 23
"Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan", 1972	box 5	folder 24
"Helirescue Manual", 1972	box 5	folder 25
Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Commission 24th Training Session, 1972	box 5	folder 26
"Environmental Plan for New York State", 1973	box 5	folder 27
"Operation Plan for Forest Fire Control in New York State", 1973	box 5	folder 28
"Radio Manual", 1973	box 5	box 29
"A Manual of Instruction for Local Search and Rescue Groups", 1974	box 5	folder 30
Adirondack Park Maps, 1974	box 5	folder 31
New York Environmental Voters Guides, 1974-1987	box 5	folder 32
Adirondack Park Agency Second Annual Report, (1974-1975)	box 5	folder 33
Comprehensive Report Adirondack Park Agency: Volume 2 - Appendix, 1976	box 5	folder 34
Rural Fire Protection, 1977	box 5	folder 35
"A Guide for Prescribed Fire in Southern Forests", 1978	box 5	folder 36
"An Environmental Education Resource Manual for Adirondack Schools", 1979	box 5	folder 37
"New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Policies and Procedures Manual", 1979	box 5	folder 38-39
"Climatic Guide to the Winter Olympics" , 1980	box 6	folder 1
"A Challenge for the 1980s", 1980	box 6	folder 2
DEC Publications on Lakes, 1980	box 6	folder 3
"Forest and Air Quality Relationships", 1980	box 6	folder 4
"Forests and Human Values", 1980	box 6	folder 5

"Forest Composition and Productivity", 1980	box 6	folder 6
"Forest History", 1980	box 6	folder 7
"Forest Owners and Attitudes", 1980	box 6	folder 8
"Forest Soil and Water Relationships", 1980	box 6	folder 9
"Forest Statistics for New York", 1980	box 6	folder 10
"Forest Insects, Diseases, and Fires", 1981	box 6	folder 11
"Forest Recreation", 1981	box 6	folder 12
"Forest Related Fish and Game", 1981	box 6	folder 13
"Forest Resource Assessment", 1981	box 6	folder 14
"New York Timber Industries - A Periodic Assessment of Timber Output", 1982	box 6	folder 15
"Siting Manual for Storing Hazardous Substances", 1982	box 6	folder 16
"Forest Extent, Location, and Biomass", 1983	box 6	folder 17
"The Forest-Land Owners of New York", 1983	box 6	folder 18
"Forest Related Organizations", 1983	box 6	folder 19
"Organized Recreation Program Proceedings Report", 1983	box 6	folder 20
DEC Annual Report, 1984	box 6	folder 21
"Emergency Response Guidebook", 1984	box 6	folder 22
"Interim Report of the State Forest Preserve 100th Anniversary Committee", 1984	box 6	folder 23
DEC Telephone Directories, (1984-1997)	box 6	folder 24
"Adirondack Goals Program: Final Report on the Community Workshops", 1985	box 6	folder 25
"Citizen's Guide to the Adirondack Forest Preserve", 1985	box 6	folder 26
"New York State Environmental Conservation Directory", 1985	box 6	folder 27
"Citizen's Guide to Adirondack Rivers and Roads", 1986	box 6	folder 28
"Stream Corridor Management: A Basic Reference Manual", 1986	box 6	folder 29
Priorities of the Environmental Planning Lobby, 1987	box 6	folder 30
Roster New York State Forest Ranger, 1987	box 6	folder 31
Environmental Conferences, 1987	box 6	folder 32
Training Materials, 1989-1997	box 6	folder 33
Search and Rescue Rosters, 1993	box 6	folder 34

"Silviculture Management Practices Catalogue for Nonpoint Source Pollution Prevention and Water Quality Protection in New York State", 1993	box 6	folder 35
"New York State Forest Ranger Manual", 1994	box 6	folder 36
Bloodborne Disease Training Manuals, 1995	box 6	folder 37
"Executive Summary: Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis", 1995	box 6	folder 38
Forest Ranger Rosters, 1996-2002	box 6	folder 39-40
Undated Fire Control Publications	box 6	folder 41

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Photographs and Negatives, 1920-1997

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series consists of photographs, slides, and negatives which are arranged by subject and format. The images depict a wide variety of ranger activities and history including fire control, vehicles, outreach activities, training, and formal portraits from ranger college and district headquarters. The bulk of the collection consists of black and white prints taken in the mid-to-late 20th Century.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bassett Mountain Fire, 1966	box 7	folder 1
Color Guard, 1985	box 7	folder 2
Construction and Trail Maintenance, 1960-1975	box 7	folder 3
Conferences and Professional Development, 1953-1954	box 7	folder 4
Events and Outreach, 1960-1990	box 7	folder 5-6
Fire Control, 1930-1974	box 7	folder 7
Forest Ranger Training, 1966-1997	box 7	folder 8
Miscellaneous, 1920-1968	box 7	folder 9
Portraits, 1930-1990	box 7	folder 10-12
Search and Rescue, 1972	box 7	folder 13
Structures, 1950-1970	box 7	folder 14
Vehicles and Equipment, 1930-1985	box 7	folder 15-17
Negatives, 1960-1985	box 7	folder 18
Slides, 1960-1980	box 7	folder 19
Foam Core Boards, 1985-1990	box 7	folder 20

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Objects and Ephemera, 1920-1987

Physical Description: 2.60 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series consists of objects and ephemera relating to forest ranger history, outreach, special events, and operations. The materials are arranged by format. Items pertaining to Charles T. Barnes, Forest Ranger and Game Protector are the oldest of the materials. The bulk of the series consists of Smokey the Bear memorabilia used in outreach events in the 1970s and 1980s which include stickers, booklets, pins, pencils, and other promotional items. Also included are temporary signs and trail registers from the Fred Lyon Observer Tower on St. Regis Mountain.

Title/Description	Instances	
Charles T. Barnes Game Protector Certificate, 1902	box 8	object 1
Charles T. Barnes Forest Ranger Commission, 1921	box 8	object 2
Mailing Tube Addressed to Charles Barnes, 1921	box 8	object 3
Corporate Seal, 1920-1930	box 8	object 4
Smokey the Bear Memorabilia , 1970-1985	box 8	object 5-100
Various Signage	box 9	folder 1
Public Hunting Grounds	box 9	object 1
Serpentarium	box 9	object 2
No Parking	box 9	object 3-4
New York State Trout Stream	box 9	object 5
State of New York Forest Preserve	box 9	object 6
New York State Seed Stock Refuge: No Trespassing	box 9	object 7
St. Regis Mountain Trail Registers, 1933-1937	box 10	object 1-2

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Audio and Visual Materials, 1958-2000

Physical Description: 1.28 Cubic Feet

Scope and Contents

The series consists of VHS tapes, audio cassettes, and one reel of 16 mm film. VHS tapes document various events and programs relating to ranger duties and outreach. Audio cassettes consist of interviews with forest rangers and lectures. Rangers interviewed include Ace Howland, Clarence Petty, Fred Oettinger, and George Youngs as part of research into forest ranger history.

Title/Description	Instances	
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VHS Tapes, 1989-2000	box 11	Item 1-11
Air Drop Film Reel, 1958	box 11	Item 12
Cassette Tapes, 1985-1995	box 11	Item 13-34

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